

Message Text

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EXDIS-DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652, GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. OIL PRICES

IN RESPONSE TO THE US DEMARCHE ON OIL PRICES, ALGERIAN ENERGY MINISTER ABDESSELAM GAVE AMBASSADOR PARKER AN AIDE-MEMOIRE WHICH SAID:

--OIL PRICES HAVE BEEN ONLY A MINOR FACTOR IN WORLD INFLATION, SINCE EARLIER OPEC PRICE FREEZES DID NOT SLOW IT DOWN.

--THE UNNATURALLY LOW LEVEL OF PRE-1973 PRICES CONSTITUTED A FORM OF EXPLOITATION OF THE LDC'S BY THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

--ALGERIA FAVORS A PRICE INCREASE WHICH PROTECTS

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PRODUCER INTEREST WITHOUT JEOPARDIZING WORLD ECONOMIC

RECOVERY.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE ALGERIANS DO NOT WISH TO BURN THEIR BRIDGES WITH THE US, GIVEN THEIR NEED FOR OUR FINANCING. WE EXPECT THEY WILL BE NEITHER HAWK NOR DOVE AT DOHA.

(CONFIDENTIAL) ALGIERS 2875, 12/9.

2. BERLINGUER ACKNOWLEDGES PCI DILEMMA

EMBASSY ROME REPORTS ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) CHIEF BERLINGUER, IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED DECEMBER 10, ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE PCI CANNOT REMAIN IMMOBILIZED IN ITS PRESENT ROLE, BUT HAS NO SHORT-TERM ALTERNATIVE TO CONTINUING TO SUPPORT THE ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT. HE ADDED THAT:

--THE PCI MUST RELATE ITS SUPPORT FOR CURRENT AUSTERITY POLICIES TO CONCRETE PLANS FOR LONG-TERM IMPROVEMENT OR LOSE ITS ELECTORAL MOMENTUM.

--THE PCI SHOULD KEEP ITS OPTIONS OPEN BY PARTICIPATING IN RESOLVING CURRENT PROBLEMS, BUT MAINTAINING "STRONG PRESSURE" ON THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (DC).

--MODERATE FORCES IN THE DC RISK ABANDONING THEIR PARTY TO A GROWING RIGHT WING IF THEY FAIL TO COME UP WITH CONSTRUCTIVE AND PROGRESSIVE IDEAS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: BERLINGUER'S INTERVIEW IS A REMARKABLY CLEAR ADMISSION THAT THE PCI'S POLICY OF SUPPORTING THE DC IS CAUSING THE PARTY SERIOUS INTERNAL PROBLEMS. IT MAY ALSO BE A MESSAGE TO THE DC TO INCREASE COOPERATION AND TONE DOWN ITS "ANTI-HISTORIC COMPROMISE" RHETORIC, OR THE PCI WILL RECONSIDER ITS SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT.

(LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) ROME 20088, 12/9.

3. GREEKS MOVING BACK TOWARD NATO?

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GREEK ARMED FORCES OPERATIONS DIRECTOR PAPACONSTANTINOU TOLD EMBASSY ATHENS THAT GREECE IS ANXIOUS TO CONTINUE A STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS WHICH WILL LEAD TO A GRADUAL RESTORATION OF ITS MILITARY TIES WITH NATO. PAPACONSTANTINOU ALSO ALLEGED:

--HE INTENDS TO INFORM GENERAL HAIG OF GREECE'S DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE IN NATO EXERCISES, BEGINNING

WITH WINTEX 77, A STAFF COMMAND POST EXERCISE.

--DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF HAD OBLIQUELY DISCUSSED ACCELERATION OF GREECE'S NATO ASSOCIATION WITH DEFENSE SECRETARY RUMSFELD AND GENERAL HAIG AT A RECENT LONDON NPG MEETING.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND THE DEPARTMENT'S CONCERN THAT ATHENS MAY BE SEEKING ONLY A HIGHLY QUALIFIED RELATIONSHIP WITH NATO. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE IT IS IN OUR INTEREST TO ENCOURAGE THIS PROCESS OF REINTEGRATION.

(SECRET) ATHENS 13115, 12/10.

4. MANLEY'S PARTY FAVORED IN JAMAICA ELECTIONS

EMBASSY KINGSTON EXPECTS PRIME MINISTER MICHAEL MANLEY'S PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY TO WIN A NARROW VICTORY IN THE DECEMBER 15 GENERAL ELECTION. IF SO, MANY JAMAICANS BELIEVE THE MANLEY GOVERNMENT WILL INTERPRET ITS VICTORY AS A MANDATE TO STEP UP ITS IMPLEMENTATION OF "DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM" AND BRING ABOUT RADICAL CHANGES IN THE COUNTRY'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS. A MANLEY WIN WILL ALSO BE VIEWED AS AN ENDORSEMENT OF JAMAICA'S POLICY OF MAINTAINING CLOSE LINKS WITH CUBA AND IDENTIFICATION WITH THE THIRD WORLD. (CONFIDENTIAL) KINGSTON 5375, 12/10 AND (CONFIDENTIAL) KINGSTON 5365, 12/9.

5. MOROCCAN-SPANISH RELATIONS ON THE MEND?

A MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL HAS TOLD EMBASSY RABAT THAT PROSPECTS FOR IMPROVED MOROCCAN-SPANISH RELATIONS HAVE BRIGHTENED SOMEWHAT IN THE LAST FEW DAYS.

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--THE AGREEMENT TO RESUME BILATERAL FISHING TALKS IN MADRID;

--THE EXPECTED ARRIVAL IN MOROCCO OF SPANISH DELEGATIONS TO DISCUSS SUCH MATTERS AS COMPENSATION FOR FORMER SPANISH LANDHOLDERS IN THE SAHARA; AND

--KING HASSAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT IN PARIS THAT HE WOULD TRY TO RESCHEDULE HIS ABORTED TRIP TO SPAIN FOR THE SPRING. (CONFIDENTIAL) RABAT 6585, 12/9. ROBINSON

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